

# MEMORANDUM

December 8, 2005

TO: THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLAIMS BOARD

FROM: LAW OFFICES OF MARC J. WODIN  
Marc J. Wodin

PHILIP S. MILLER  
Assistant County Counsel  
General Litigation Division

RE: Jessica Angulo v. County of Los Angeles, et al.  
Los Angeles Superior Court No. VC042244

DATE OF  
INCIDENT: November 14, 2003

AUTHORITY  
REQUESTED: \$27,500.00

COUNTY  
DEPARTMENT: Sheriff


---

## CLAIMS BOARD ACTION:

☒ Approve

☐ Disapprove

☐ Recommend to Board of  
Supervisors for Approval

  
\_\_\_\_\_, Chief Administrative Office  
**ROCKY ARMFIELD**

  
\_\_\_\_\_, County Counsel  
**JOHN F. KRATTLI**

  
\_\_\_\_\_, Auditor-Controller  
**MARIA M. OMS**

on December 19, 2005

## SUMMARY

This is a recommendation to settle for \$27,500.00 a lawsuit filed by Jessica Angulo for injuries she sustained in a collision with a Sheriff's patrol unit.

## LEGAL PRINCIPLES

A public entity is responsible for the negligent acts of its employees when the acts are done in the course and scope of employment.

## SUMMARY OF FACTS

Jessica Angulo was traveling on Whittier Boulevard near its intersection with Whittier Drive on November 14, 2003. As she approached the intersection in the number three lane, a Sheriff's patrol unit turned left in front of her. Ms. Angulo indicates she entered the intersection on a green light. The Deputy driving the patrol unit indicates he began his left turn only after the light turned yellow.

At the scene of the accident and subsequently, Ms. Angulo has complained of severe headaches, pain to her neck, upper/lower back, numbness in her fingers and toes, and dizziness.

The Whittier Police Department officer who investigated the incident found the Deputy at fault in the accident for failure to yield to oncoming traffic.

## DAMAGES

Should this matter proceed to trial, we anticipate Ms. Angulo will offer evidence of damages as follows:

Past medical expenses	\$ 14,000.00
Future medical expenses	\$ 45,000.00
Past loss of earnings	\$ 11,250.00
Future loss of earnings	<u>\$ 50,000.00</u>
Total	\$120,250.00

## STATUS OF CASE

This matter was set for trial in August of this year. The trial date was continued in order to allow for settlement conferences to occur. Ultimately, the trial date was vacated to allow for action on this proposed settlement.

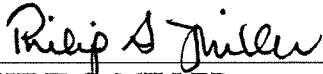
Expenses incurred by the County in defense of this matter are attorneys' fees of \$22,875.37 and costs of \$41,368.63. The costs were increased by the need to retain numerous doctors to examine Ms. Angulo to address her claimed injuries.

## EVALUATION

We believe a jury could find the Sheriff's Deputy negligent for failing to yield to oncoming traffic. A reasonable settlement of this action at this time will avoid litigation costs and a potential jury verdict that could exceed the proposed settlement.

We join our third party administrator, Carl Warren & Company, in recommending a settlement of this matter in the amount of \$27,500.00. The Sheriff's Department concurs in the recommendation.

APPROVED:



PHILIP S. MILLER  
Assistant County Counsel  
General Litigation Division

PSM:eaw